

City of Rockford
Community Development Department

PUBLIC HEARING
CONCERNING

Fifth Year of
Five Year Consolidated Plan

Thursday, August 15th, 2013 – 6:00 PM
Rockford Public Library
200 N. Wyman Street

MINUTES

I. Welcome

Dwayne Collins, Grants Compliance Specialist for the City of Rockford, introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He explained that this public hearing is regarding the Consolidated Plan. The programs include the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program and the Emergency Shelter Grant.

II. 2010-2014 City of Rockford Consolidated Plan: 2013 Action Plan

- The 2010 – 2014 City of Rockford Consolidated Plan: 2013 Action Plan was presented by Vicki Manson, Dwayne Collins, Angie Walker and Mark Williams. See slides attached.
- The following questions were addressed by staff members:
 - ☐ Question – How do you prioritize your funds if there are so many properties to be demolished?
Answer – We developed a system a few years ago to prioritize our demolitions. An inspector goes out and assigns points to different categories. At the beginning of the year, we decided we would do twenty demolitions, so the top twenty will be done in 2013. The remaining forty are going to move about as new demolitions come in.
 - ☐ Question – Is there money set aside for redevelopment or is it just to clear the property?
Answer – We used to acquire properties and redevelop them and another department would do emergency demolitions from fires and such. The Community and Economic Development department started taking over the demolitions. Eventually it started getting too expensive to acquire and demolish plus we were acquiring a lot of property and not doing anything with them except mowing them. About five years ago, we started a process of Fast Track demolitions where we do not acquire the property. We issue a notice to the property owner after it has been inspected. If they don't object within 30 days, we begin the demolition process. Once the 30 days has lapsed, we have 120 days to perform the demolition, so we don't own the property but we do put a lien on it and could foreclose on it if we need to. We do currently have approximately 100 lots that we would like to sell.

III. Schedule of Continuation of Process

- We are having the Public Hearings today. The purpose of these meetings is to give the public a broader understanding of the three programs and their eligible use of funds, to explain what funds we have received in the past and the status of where we are today and for the public to provide us input and suggestions as we move through the process of drafting a plan for 2014. Over the next few weeks, we will draft a plan to submit to the City. The draft action plan will be available for public viewing for thirty days. The plan will go through the City of Rockford process and approval and must be submitted to HUD by November 15.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Diehl
Community Development Department,
Sr. Office Assistant